

On page 13, line 3, replace "Dacron®" with --DACRON--.

On page 15, line 11, replace both occurrences of "Marlex®" with --MARLEX--;

line 15, replace "Marlex®" with --MARLEX--.

On page 16, line 11, replace "Silastic®" with --SILASTIC--;

line 16, replace "Marlex®" with --MARLEX--.

On page 19, line 10, after "includes" insert --a sidewall 252, and--, and replace "floor" with --base 249--;

line 14, after "top" insert --250--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-47 without prejudice.

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1  
48. An apparatus for loading and delivering a pliable implantable prosthesis into a trocar cannula having a lumen, the pliable implantable prosthesis having a first configuration larger than the lumen of the trocar cannula and being formable into a second configuration which is smaller than the lumen of the trocar cannula, said apparatus comprising:

an elongated body having a lumen extending therethrough and [a longitudinal] an elongated slot extending radially from said lumen through a [the] surface of said elongated body, said elongated slot adapted to admit the implantable prosthesis in the first configuration and said elongated body lumen adapted to receive and maintain the implantable prosthesis in the second configuration;

*alt.*  
*com* a distal end of said elongated body constructed and arranged  
for [mounting to] receipt in the lumen of the trocar cannula.

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Claim 49, line 3, after "said" insert --elongated--.

Claim 50, line 3, before "slot" insert --elongated--.

Claim 54, line 3, delete "the" and insert in place thereof  
--an--.

Claim 55, line 4, delete "main" and insert in place thereof  
--elongated--.

Claim 56, line 3, delete "main" and insert in place thereof  
--elongated--.

Claim 57, line 3, delete "main" and insert in place thereof  
--elongated--.

Claim 58, line 3, delete "main" and insert in place thereof  
--elongated--.

*92* Claim 59, line <sup>4</sup>~~5~~, delete "main" and insert in place thereof  
--elongated--.

Please cancel claims 65-72 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

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*92* -- <sup>18</sup>~~43~~. The loading and delivery apparatus recited in claim <sup>1</sup>~~48~~  
wherein said distal end includes a portion which is constructed  
and arranged for mounting to the trocar cannula.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~74~~. The loading and delivery apparatus recited in claim <sup>18</sup>~~73~~ wherein said portion of said distal end is stepped.

<sup>20</sup>  
~~75~~. In combination, an implantable prosthesis having an expanded configuration and a reduced configuration and an apparatus for loading and delivering said implantable prosthesis to a trocar cannula having a lumen which is smaller than said expanded configuration of said implantable prosthesis, said apparatus including an elongated body having a lumen extending therethrough and an elongated slot extending radially from said elongated body lumen through a surface of said elongated body, said elongated slot adapted to admit said implantable prosthesis in said expanded configuration, said implantable prosthesis being received and maintained in said elongated body lumen in said reduced configuration;

*an  
ex.*

a distal end of said elongated body constructed and arranged for receipt in the lumen of the trocar cannula.

<sup>21</sup>  
~~76~~. A method of loading and delivering an implantable prosthesis to a trocar cannula having a lumen, comprising:

providing an elongated body having a lumen extending therethrough and an elongated slot extending radially from the elongated body lumen through a surface of the elongated body, the elongated slot adapted to admit the implantable prosthesis

in an expanded configuration which is larger than the trocar cannula lumen and the elongated body lumen being adapted to receive and maintain the implantable prosthesis in a reduced configuration which is smaller than the trocar cannula lumen, a distal end of the elongated body constructed and arranged for receipt in the lumen of the trocar cannula;

Q2  
cont.

admitting the implantable prosthesis in the expanded configuration through the elongated slot into the elongated body lumen where it is maintained in the reduced configuration;

inserting the distal end of the elongated body in the lumen of the trocar cannula;

advancing the implantable prosthesis in the reduced configuration through the elongated body lumen and into the trocar cannula lumen. --

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#### REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

Claims 48-64 and 73-76 are now in this case. Claims 48-50 and 54-59 have been amended. New claims 73-76 have been added. Claims 1-47 and 65-72 have been cancelled without prejudice.